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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/954,625	09/17/2001	William T. Turner	12017-26/NEC	7554

7590

12/31/2002

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EXAMINER

WITKOWSKI, STANLEY J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2837

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/954625

Applicant(s)

Turner

Examiner

Witkowski

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12-2-02
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. The terminal disclaimers filed on December 2, 2002 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patents 6,291,758 and 6,291,759 has been reviewed and is NOT accepted.

The person who signed the terminal disclaimers is not recognized as an officer of the assignee, and he/she has not been established as being authorized to act on behalf of the assignee. See MPEP § 324.

An attorney or agent, not of record, is not authorized to sign a terminal disclaimer in the capacity as an attorney or agent acting in a representative capacity as provided by 37 CFR 1.34 (a). See 37 CFR 1.321(b) and/or (c).

2. The Terminal Disclaimer is one document that must be signed by an attorney of record. The attorney who signed the Terminal Disclaimers, although otherwise authorized by prosecute the application for the applicant, is not a "recorded" attorney of record.

Remedies"

(1) Revised Terminal Disclaimers may be filed in combination with an Associate Power or Power of Attorney.

(2) Revised Terminal Disclaimers may be filed signed by an attorney already of record in the file.

(3) Revised Terminal Disclaimers may be filed which includes the statement that the attorney is "empowered" to act on applicant's behalf to prosecute the application.

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3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321© may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 24-40 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,291,759. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims 24-40 are broader in scope than the patented claims.

It is always considered obvious to broaden the scope of the patented claims. For example, instant claim 24 is a subcombination of patented claim 1. Instant claim 37 is a subcombination of patent claims 11 and 21.

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5. Claims 24-40 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,291,758. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims 24-40 are broader in scope than the patented claims.

It is always considered obvious to broaden the scope of the patented claims. For example, instant claim 1 is a subcombination of patented claims 1 and 7.

6. A clear line of demarcation must be maintained between this application and application Serial No. 09/825,918.

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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8. Claims 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102((a) or (e)) as being fully met by either of Kinman "520 or "966, respectively.

Each patent discloses a first wire coil 30, a second wire coil 20, and a ferromagnetic plate 41 in a substantially magnetically neutral location between the two coils. A humbucking effect is provided for an electric guitar. Plate 41 is completely flat or horizontal to the two coils.

9. Claims 24-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being fully met by either of Kinman "999 or Blucher et al.

Each patent discloses a first wire coil and a second wire coil proximate the first coil. Plural magnets are disposed at least partially within both coils. A ferromagnetic plate 41 is disposed intermediate the two coils. Plate 41 is completely flat or horizontal between the coils. Claim 24 is met. Regarding claim 25, the plate generally separates north and south lines of force. Regarding claim 26, the magnets are elongated and the ferromagnetic plate is perpendicular thereto and substantially midway between opposite ends of the magnet. Regarding claim 27, the plate is a single, uniformly flat ferromagnetic plate. Regarding claim 28, each coil has a bobbin. Regarding claim 29, the first coil is disposed generally above the second coil. Regarding claim 30, the coils are substantially matched and oppositely wound. Regarding claim 31, the plate does not connect to any ferromagnetic portion extending upwardly to the upper portions of the magnets. Regarding claim 32, the plate does not connect to any ferromagnetic portion extending downwardly to the lower portions of the magnets. Claim 33 is met for the reasoning applied to claims 31 and 32. Regarding claim 34, steel plates extend along the longitudinal sides of the

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bobbins. For example, see Fig. 10 in Kinman. Regarding claims 35 and 36, the approximate dimensions are met.

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Stanley J. Witkowski at telephone number (703) 308-3101.

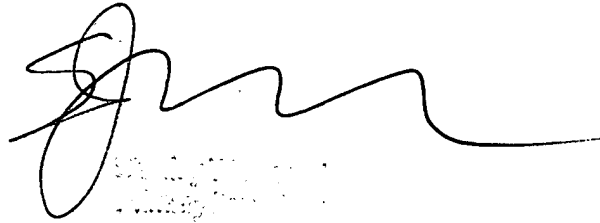
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S J WITKOWSKI/pj

12/27/02

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S J Witkowski", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. Below the signature, there is a faint, rectangular stamp or mark.